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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536



File: EAC-00-248-52305

Office: Vermont Service Center

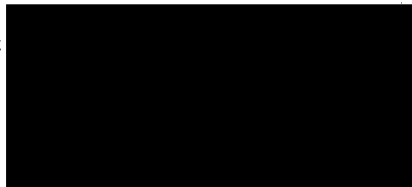
Date: 07 JAN 2002

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:



Petition: Petition for Special Immigrant Religious Worker Pursuant to Section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the "Act"), 8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(4), as described at Section 101(a)(27)(C) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(C)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



Public Copy

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Myra L. Roser
for Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The immigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be rejected.

The Form I-360 petition was filed by an official of the petitioning church on August 10, 2000. The petition was denied in a decision dated March 12, 2001. An appeal from the decision was filed by the beneficiary on April 13, 2001.

8 C.F.R. 103.3(a)(1)(iii) states, in pertinent part:

(B) *Meaning of affected party.* For purposes of this section and sections 103.4 and 103.5 of this part, *affected party* (in addition to the Service) means the person or entity with legal standing in a proceeding. It does not include the beneficiary of a visa petition. (Emphasis added.)

8 C.F.R. 103.3(a)(2)(v) states:

Improperly filed appeal--(A) Appeal filed by person or entity not entitled to file it--(1) Rejection without refund of filing fee. An appeal filed by a person or entity not entitled to file it must be rejected as improperly filed. In such a case, any filing fee the Service has accepted will not be refunded.

The appeal has not been filed by the petitioner, nor by any entity with legal standing in the proceeding; but rather, by the beneficiary. Therefore, the appeal has not been properly filed and must be rejected.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.